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COPY NO. 69
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22 December 1961

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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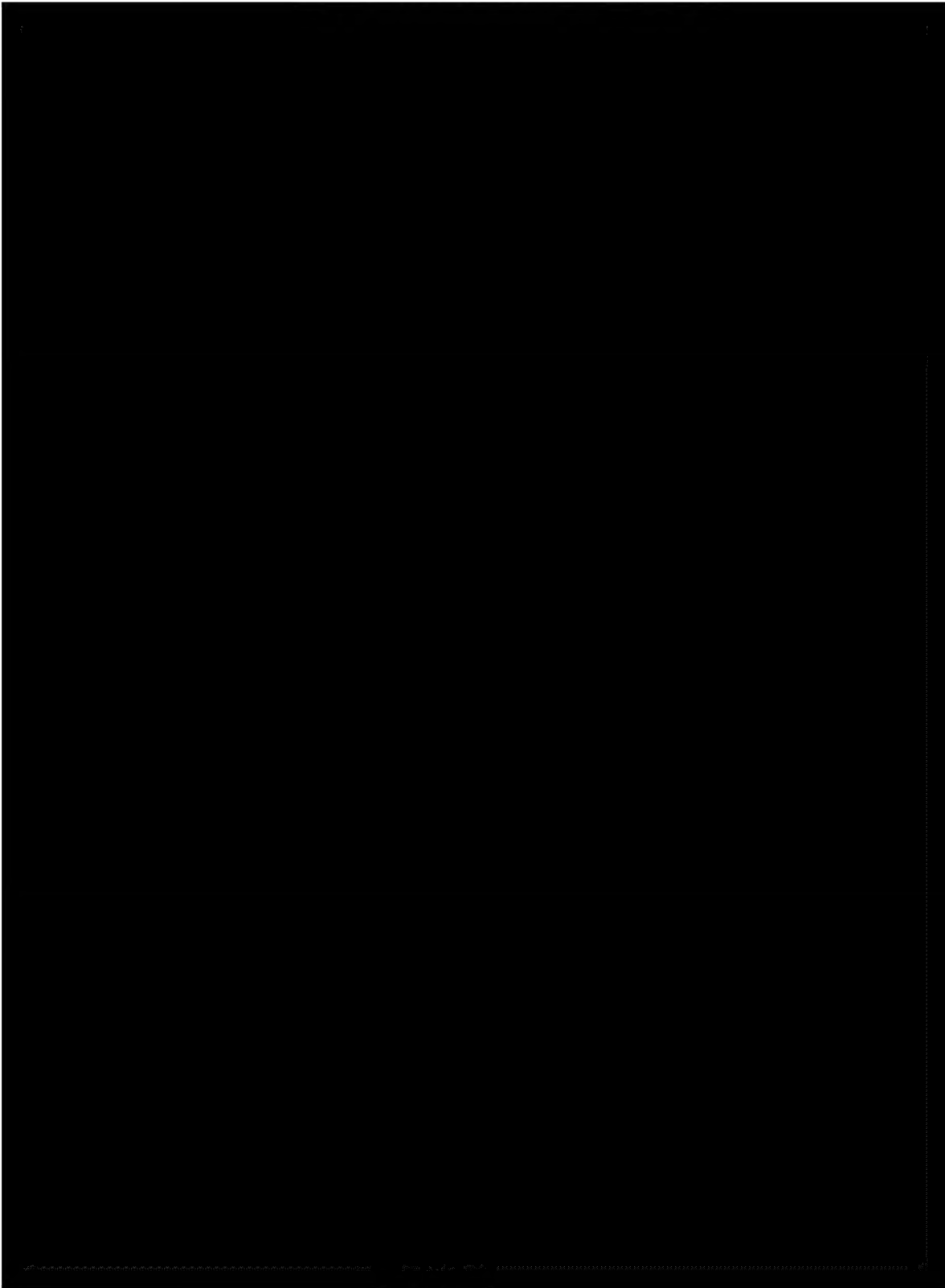
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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

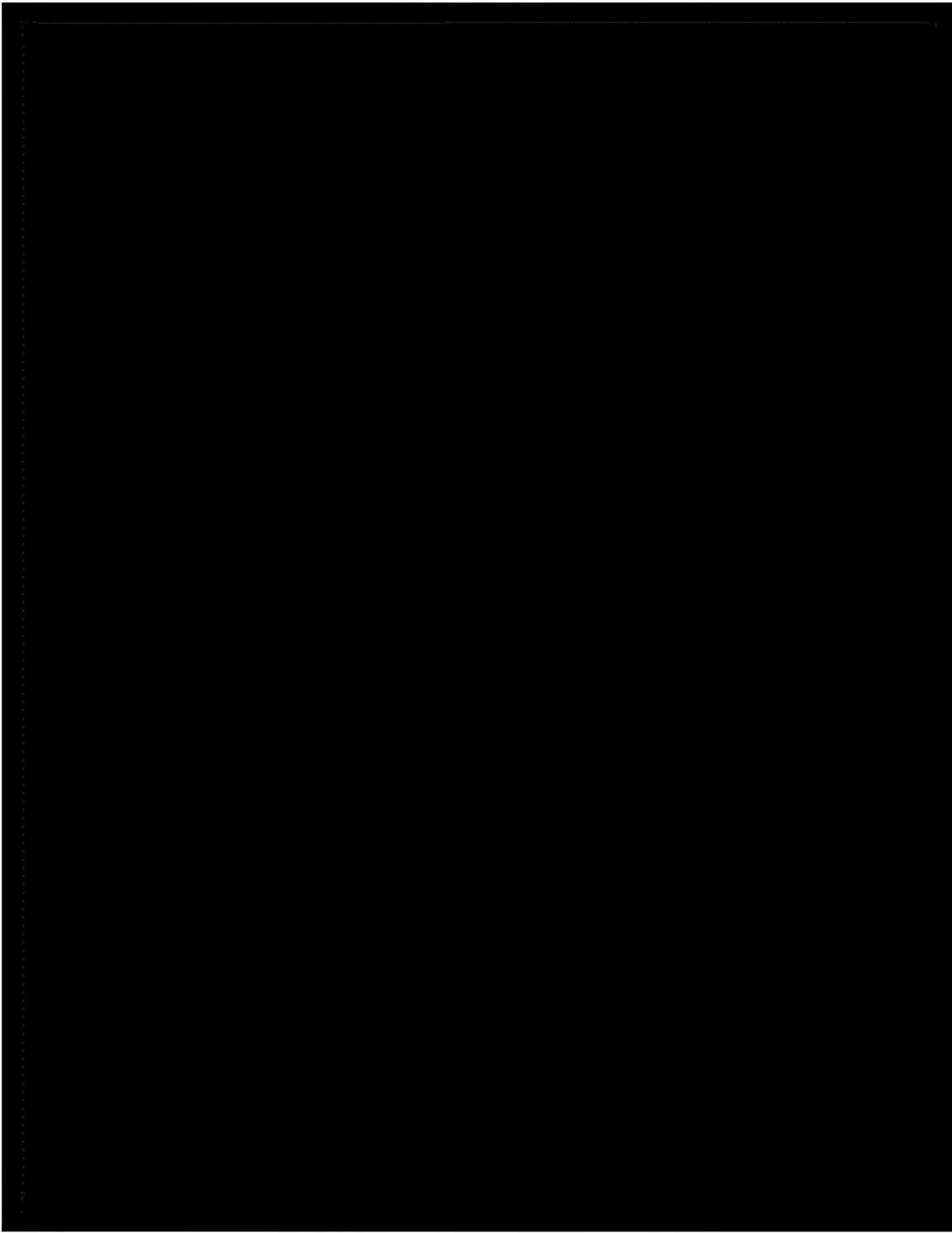
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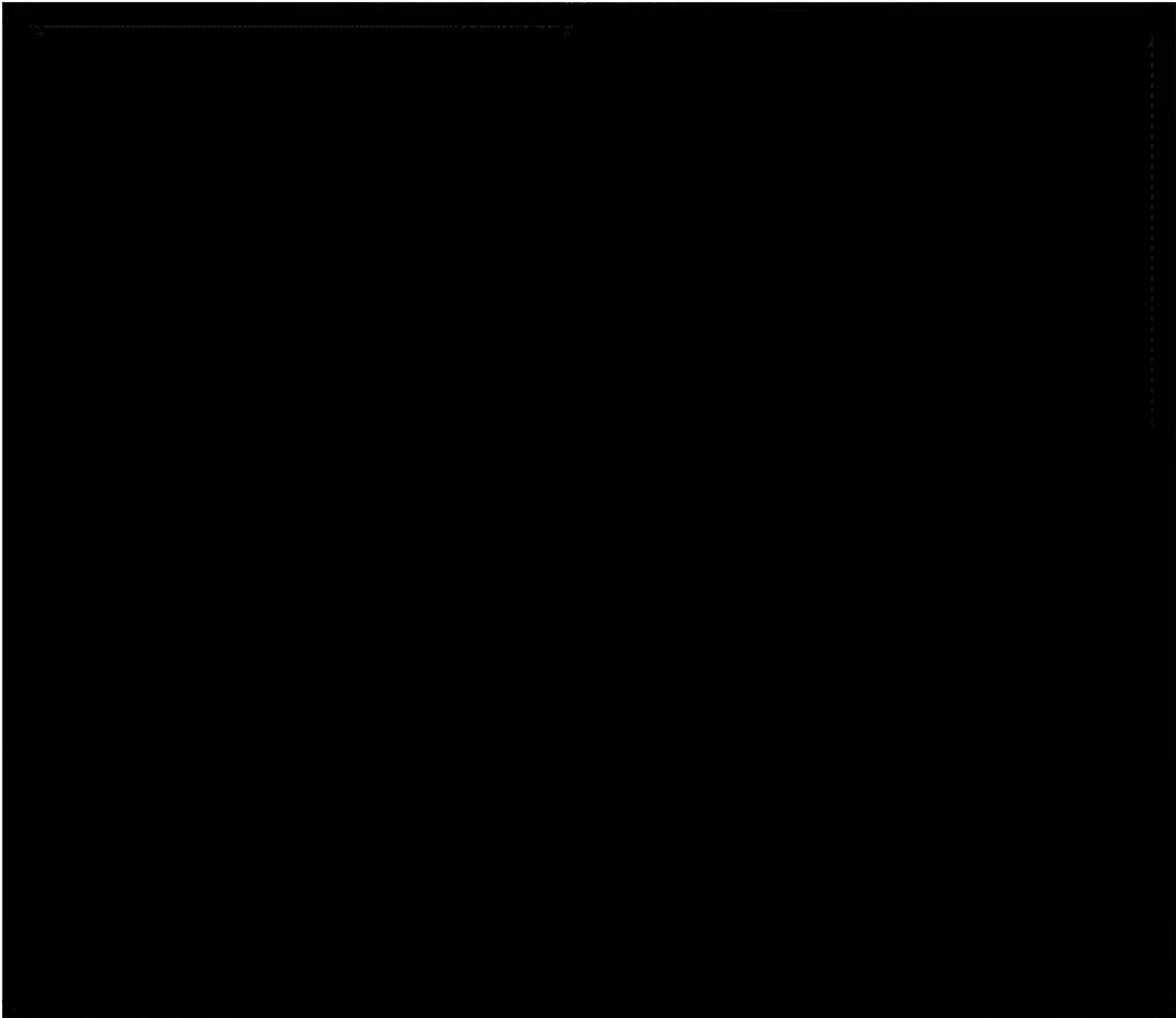


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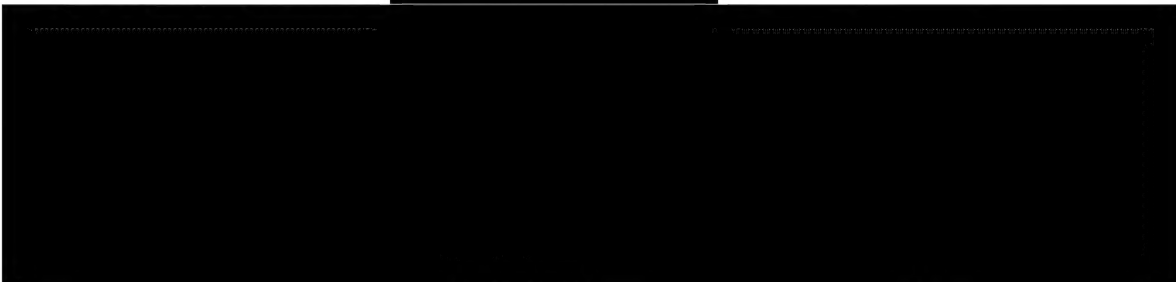
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SOUTH KOREA Page 19

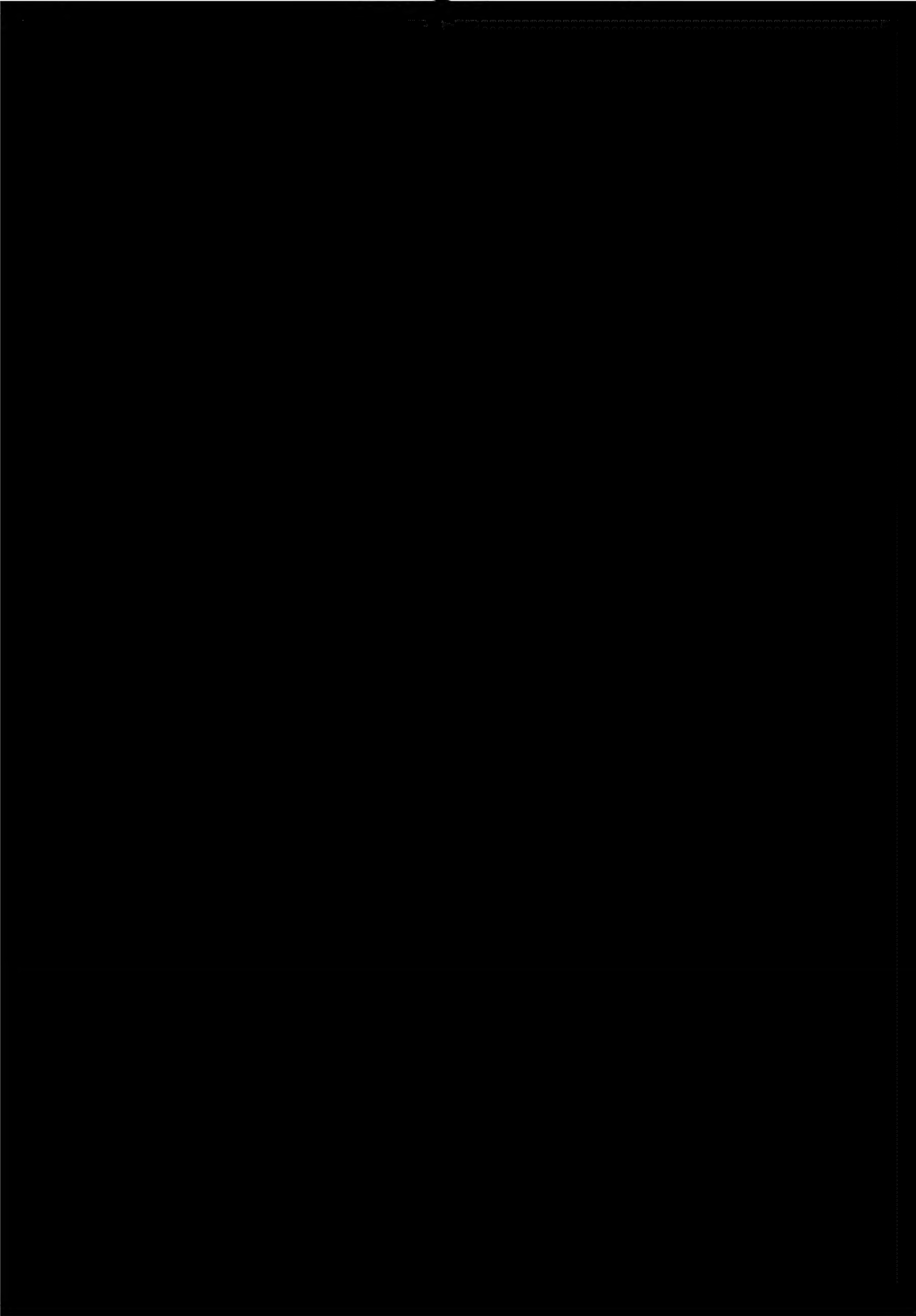
The military regime is moving to ensure itself continuing influence over any future civilian government by selecting and controlling the politicians permitted to resume political activity. An intensive investigation of all former civilian politicians is under way. Factional differences may lead individual members of the ruling group, however, to try to form alliances with leading civilian politicians.

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SOUTH KOREA

South Korea's ruling military leaders are preparing to maintain their influence beyond mid-1963, when General Pak Chong-hui, chairman of the ruling Supreme Council for National Reconstruction, has pledged to return the government to civilian authority. Pak and his associates appear to favor a form of "guided democracy" to keep unacceptable politicians from gaining power. The junta has sent observers to Turkey to determine whether its revolutionary experience is adaptable to South Korea's needs.

For the general elections accompanying the re-establishment of civilian government, the junta probably intends to control the nomination of candidates and avoid blatant fraud and coercion of voters, tactics that led to the ouster of President Rhee. Security forces have been ordered to undertake an intensive investigation of all former civilian politicians who might be candidates.

The police are rehiring former intelligence agents of the Rhee regime to investigate civilian political activities. These men are among the best informed on prominent civilian political figures and local

political activity. There has been speculation that the junta may intend to maneuver for the election of a large number of politically reliable retired military officers.

Prospective candidates approved by the regime are likely to receive covert financial and political backing from the powerful central intelligence organization of Colonel Kim Chong-pil, Pak's right-hand man. Those who fail to win approval probably will be discouraged from running. One report indicates the loyalty of prospective candidates will be tested by offering them posts in the National Reconstruction Movement where they can demonstrate their zeal for the "revolution" and become known to the public.

There also is some indication that factional differences in the military regime may cause individual junta members to seek alliances with civilian political figures. This event the military factions might find themselves vying for the support of the same civilian political group. Such maneuvering could aggravate tensions within the junta leadership and impede an orderly transfer to civilian administration.

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